

OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesday & Thursday

9:-00-2:00

Office email:

office@zionlcc.org

Pastor's email:

pastor@zionlcc.org

Mission Statement:

***"To make the love of
Christ known to all"***

Vision Statement:

***"Where the Hungry
are Fed"***

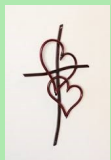
**Sunday Worship
Schedule:**

**Until further notice,
worship services can
be found by going to
either**

www.zionlcc.org

Or

**Zion Evangelical
Lutheran Church
on Facebook**



The Focus

A Publication of

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church



2021

A Message from Pastor Sarah

We are into the season of Lent. The word Lent can mean "springtime" but it is also derived from the Old English word for "lengthening." Indeed, the hours of daylight are lengthening as we dream of spring. Of course in Minnesota we know that we could still have a lot of snow and cold in our future. At Zion we are marking Lent with worship on Sundays and Wednesdays. We are also making special plans for Holy Week.

Traditionally, Lent was a time when people would prepare for baptism. They would be involved in an intensive time of learning about the faith and self-discipline. This past year has been a time of learning about our faith and having self-discipline. It has been harder for some than others but we have all made sacrifices to keep our families and our neighbors safe.

There is hope. The vaccine is here and starting to be distributed. The number of Covid-19 cases are currently going down quickly. Springtime will arrive and we can all go outside again where the air is fresh and clean. Easter always comes.

In the meantime, we take our Lenten journey to the cross. We continue our disciplines of distancing and masking. We fast from those things that harm us and our neighbors (gossip, judgment, greed). We give alms (gifts of money, time and talent). We continue pray for all in need, we pray for healing and hope, we pray for comfort and strength. By the grace of God we will be made stronger in faith as we journey to the cross, the grave and the joy of Easter morning.

Peace,
Pastor Sarah

Micah 6:8

*He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?*

****If you are not receiving the "Daily Dose" devotions, please send an e-mail to pastor@zionlcc.org and Pastor will add you to the list.**

Dates to Remember

Monday, March 1	Book Club via Zoom	6:00 pm
Thursday, March 11	Finance Committee	6:00 pm
Tuesday, March 16	Council	6:00 pm
Wednesdays	Evening Prayer (Facebook & YouTube)	6:30 pm
Sundays	Worship (Facebook & YouTube)	8:30 am
Sundays (2nd & 4th)	Zoom Coffee Hour	10:00 am



We continue our tradition of Holden Evening Prayer for Wednesday Lenten Worship. This year we will be on-line (both Facebook and YouTube). Our service will include Scripture readings and monologues. The theme is "Makers". We will meet a sword maker, a sign maker, the weaver of the crown of thorns, the kindler of the fire, and the weaver of tunics. Join us for this time of worship and meditation as we journey together through Lent.

NOTICE!

All services are listed as the time they first appear on Facebook and YouTube. You can join us at that time, and even converse with others online, or watch it anytime after it is done airing the first time.

You can access either page through our website at <http://www.zionlcc.org/>

You do NOT need to have a Facebook account to view the services.

DID YOU GET IT?

A weekly online newsletter is being sent out each Thursday. If you have not received it, please check your social tab, or your junk mail.



Confirmation Classes will not be held during Lent. Students are required to participate in weekly on-line worship. We will meet again after Easter.

No More Cans

The youth will no longer be collecting cans for recycling. Please do NOT bring any more empty cans to the church. Thank you!



Men's Bible Study



Looking to safely get out of the house and have some interaction? We have a men's group that meets Saturday at 8:30 a.m. for one hour in the fellowship hall. Our primary intent is a Bible study but we seem to digress often and cover a wide range of interesting subjects. We are fortunate to have Pastor Richard Baumann with us who is able to offer his clerical knowledge, perspective, and insight; he also tries to keep us on task!

We are covid compliant and sit at separate tables in the fellowship hall. Bring your coffee, etc. and use the back entrance. We encourage you to give this a try.

Dear Zion Family & Prayer Chain,

Thank You!

Thank you so very much for your thoughts, prayers and kind words. We are so grateful to be remembered at this difficult time of loss. God bless!

Sincerely,
Mike & Robyn Savold

We want to thank everyone who participated in the Wednesday night services. We are so grateful for the time, messages and music that you have shared with us. God bless each of you.

Thank you,
Denny & Sandy Patrias

~ to the [Contemporary Worship Team](#) for putting together another wonderful worship opportunity with "Star Witnesses" on Wednesday evenings.

~ Thank you to all of our [readers, musicians and worship helpers](#) that contribute to the safe assembling of our weekly worship.

~ Thank you to all the [volunteers](#) who have helped around the church and in the office as we put together the Ash Wednesday packets. We still have some available in the office. These contain devotional cards for us during Lent. We deliver!

~ Thank you to [Rod Sietsema](#) for his work on the pulpit, the bulletin boards and technology issues.

~ Thank you to the [Church Council](#) for continuing to lead us through these interesting times.

Letter to the Congregation

Dear friends in Christ,

I hope this letter finds you all healthy and happy. As I write this, we have made it through a heavy cold snap in the weather, but it sure feels like Spring is on its way. Praise the Lord!

Council met this past week, and just how I have said in the past year when I have written to you all, we remain dedicated to Zion and health and wellness of everyone. We are anxious to gather again and see all of you. Anxious to sit in the sanctuary and worship. Anxious to get up on Sunday morning and get dressed for Church. Our hope is that we will be able to meet in some form soon. Council would like you to know that this is a consistent topic of concern and conversation in our meetings. Our plan currently is for us to gather again outdoors when the weather is permitting.

Obviously, with Minnesota weather, this is difficult to predict. However, as Spring approaches, we plan to continue watching the weather and when it permits, we plan to begin having services outdoors.

We know that this is not the same as meeting in the sanctuary, but the process of coming together will be slow and we need to crawl before we can walk. If any of you are feeling the way I am, it will be good to gather in whatever way we can.

Stay strong and healthy. Pray often, it works. See you all soon.

-Danny Eby

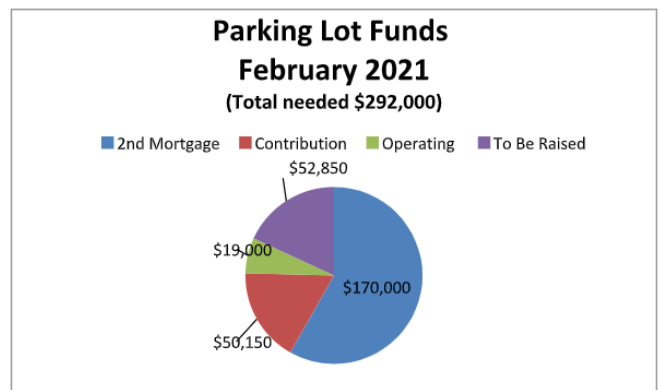
~~~~~

## Parking Lot Update

We have \$69,000 in the bank towards our contribution to the project. We have raised more than half of our original goal. AND, this was all done under the COVID constraints – no large fundraising events. This is all a combination of individual contributions and directed memorial. It is remarkable and greatly appreciated. However, we still have a ways to go.

We plan on submitting the loan application in early March. The intent is still to get the project going very early in the spring.

Thank you all for your continued support.



Dear partner in ministry,

As a companion in caring for individuals in your congregation and community, you know the dedicated support that caregivers provide day in and day out for their loved ones. You also may be aware of the worry and strain that accompanies caregiving. That's why I am happy to pass along news about a new service from Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota (LSS) that helps caregivers build peace of mind by working with them to develop a plan for any potential situation when they could no longer care for their loved ones.

LSS' Emergency Care Planning Service works directly with caregivers and their families to thoroughly assess their needs and create a comprehensive plan that meets those needs. Through a generous grant, LSS offers this Emergency Care Planning service **temporarily at no cost**.

Carol Huesman of Detroit Lakes started assisting her husband, Ken, with daily tasks in 2018 as his physical abilities started to decline from Pulmonary Fibrosis, a lung disease he was diagnosed with three years earlier that started to affect his ability to breath. Last February, Carol, Ken and their two adult sons met with Laura Hawk, regional coordinator with LSS Caregiver and Companion Service, to develop a plan for Ken's care if Carol suddenly became unable to provide care.

Ken passed away in April of 2020, but Carol said having a plan for his care offered peace of mind as they planned for his increasing needs. "It was reassuring that I wouldn't have to go over how to care for Ken with everyone in our circle," Carol said. "Laura made a document with all of the information they'd need that we kept right on our fridge."

Creating these plans can also help older adults stay in their home during a temporary emergency, such as their caregiver staying in the hospital. "It's planning for an emergency, but ultimately, creating a roadmap for when your loved one transitions into a new phase of their life when they need more care," Laura said. "Planning empowers the caregiver and entire family with information and choices that include ways to keep loved ones at home."

Through Emergency Planning Service, LSS works with caregivers and their families to answer questions such as: Who would care for my loved one if something happened to me? What tasks would that care involve? What resources are available in my community to support my family in providing care?

"Help is out there, but as a caregiver, you have to be willing to reach out and ask for it," Carol said. "I know that it helped my husband a lot. He didn't feel like we were on our own. We had just a great amount of support and caring people."

Again, this Emergency Care Planning service is **temporarily available at no cost**. Caregivers can get connected by calling **1.800.488.4146** or visit the [Emergency Care Planning service webpage](#).

Thank you for all the ways you extend the love of Christ to all our neighbors.

In Christ,  
The Rev. Julie Wright

Director of Church Partnerships and Volunteerism

P.S.: If anyone you know needs additional support during this time, **LSS is here to help**. Please visit [lssmn.org/services](https://lssmn.org/services) to learn about services available in your community.

**Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**Council Minutes**  
January 19, 2021

**Devotions:** Pastor Sarah (*February – Barb Garness*)

**Members Present:** Corrine Mix, Mary Redgrave, Trudy Marten, Danny Eby, Glade Sietsema, Jim Green, Laura Freeman, Carl Thomsen, Karen Pavel, Barb Garness, Kris Skoog, Pastor Sarah. Meeting was held via Zoom or present by speaker phone.

**Member Absent:** None

**Guests:** None

**Staff and Committee Reports:**

1. Finance –\$50,800 checking, about \$129,557 savings
  - a. Finance committee would like reallocate Thrivent funds into a lower risk portfolio. Motion by Finance committee, second by Barb Garness. Motion passed.
- Education – Anne Thomsen is taking over the mailings while Megan Dreckman is recovering

**Update from Pastor:**

Continue Daily Dose and emailing sermons

Mid-week worship during Advent

Facebook worship –

Virtual coffee hour successful – non-communion Sundays 8-12 people attend

Confirmation classes - continues on Zoom. About half the normal attendance

Sending jigsaw puzzles/gift bags going to Pt. Pleasant

Christmas services

Baptism – Fiona Rooney was baptized 1/17/2021

MLK event with synod

Upcoming –

Lenten mid-week services will start headed by contemporary worship leadership team

Funeral – Larry Lofgren – private ceremony

Baptism – Lydia Sargeant

Wedding – Diane Peterson & Lee Duncan

2/2 – 2/8 vacation

Motion to approve December council minutes, committee reports and Pastor's report by Corrine Mix and second by Karen Pavel. Motion passed.

**Ongoing Business:**

Spending list: Kitchen, roof, parking lot, sanctuary reconfiguration, new van, outdoor stage, musical upgrades, larger elevator, balcony railing, projector - keep on agenda as a reminder.

### New Business:

1. Flooring issue in the community meal refrigerator room – vinyl tile will be installed. Flooring \$470 bid. Community meals will pay for half. Looking for volunteers to paint.
  2. Quilting Group– is it safe for the quilting group to come back in February? A normal size group is around 8 participants. They will need to practice social distancing guidelines.
- Worship – when do we comeback? Easter? Possibly do in cars and if weather permitting, we could do it outside. Many volunteers will be needed. Any possibility of having live services on-line? What are the costs associated with getting the sanctuary wired for internet?

**Next meeting date: 6:00 pm, Tuesday, February 16, 2021 via Zoom (exec. council by email)**

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kris Skoog



### Gee Howard...Words to Challenge and Inspire

#### **LINCOLN'S POCKETS**

The night President Abraham Lincoln was shot in 1865, his pockets contained the following: two spectacles, a lens polisher, a pocketknife, a watch fob, a handkerchief, a leather wallet containing a 5 dollar Confederate bill, and eight newspaper clippings, including several that praised him and his policies.

I wonder what the Confederate money was doing in his pocket, but I have little doubt about the glowing news stories. Everyone needs encouragement, even a great leader like Lincoln!

Who do you know that needs encouragement? *Everyone!* Look around you. There isn't one person who is as confident as they seem. We're all one failure, one snide comment, or bad hair day away from self-doubt.

What if we all obeyed God's command to "please our neighbors for their own good, to build them up"? (Romans 15:2). What if we determined only to speak "gracious words" that are "sweet to the soul and healing to the bones"? (Proverbs 16:24). What if we wrote these words down, so friends could reread and savor them? Then we'd all have notes in our pockets (or on our phones!) and we'd be more like Jesus, who "did not please himself" but lived for others. (Romans 15:3).

Wisdom is the reward you get for a lifetime of listening when you'd have preferred to talk.

From Our Daily Bread  
D. Larson



And a funny.....I have a friend who got a new job this past Monday at the zoo, tending the animals. On Friday I saw him and he said he lost his job. I asked what in the world happened. He said "there were signs up all over the place that said "DON'T FEED THE ANIMALS".....so I didn't".



Greetings!

The mission team is still working. Several seamstresses are working at home, putting together quilt tops and sewing backpacks. We can always use you if you want to sew at home.

We continue to put together quilts of various sizes. We like to give these quilts to people in the local area. If you know anyone needing quilts, let us know and we will try to help.

We will be filling school kit backpacks in the fall. As school supplies are usually on sale July through September, we will remind you about those at that time.

We will add a new kit NOW! **Personal Care Kits** are needed worldwide and the items are readily available for us to purchase. Each kit needs the following items:

1 lightweight bath towel

20 x 40 to 27 x 52

Dark color recommended

2-3 bath sized bars of soap

1 adult tooth brush in original wrapping

1 sturdy comb (no picks or fi-

netoothed)

1 metal nail clipper

Please buy what you can and we will make the kits. It is suggested that you buy in bulk. Please do **NOT** add other items. We will try to make the Personal Care Kits a year-round project.

Read 2 Corinthians 8:2-15 to see what Paul writes about giving! Not just about what we think of as mission projects, but to giving in general.

Pray that God will guide you. We can all be missionaries!

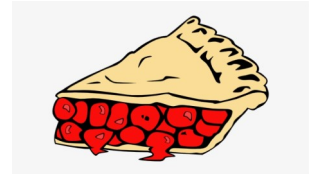
Blessings,

Corrine Mix



Be sure to check out our new webpage. It is still a work in progress, so please be patient with us. The web address has not changed. You can still find us at [www.zionlcc.org](http://www.zionlcc.org)

## PIE FUNDRAISER



Pat Pojanowski will once again be baking pies in March to raise funds for the following:

March 7 - Parking Lot

March 14, 21, 28 - Chisago Lakes  
Area Food Shelf.

Call Pat at 651-257-3863 to order your pie and to make arrangements for pick-up.

Flavors available are:

Pecan

Blueberry

Apple

Cherry

Other flavors may be available upon request. Give Pat a call!

***Thank you for your support!***



If you are not receiving phone calls from one of our volunteers, please let us know. If you would like to be one of the callers to check in on others, please let us know.



Zoom coffee hour will be offered on the 2nd and 4th Sunday mornings at 10:00.

Watch your e-mail for log-in information. If you do not have Zoom on your device, it will ask you to load it the first time you log-in.



We will be having communion via Facebook on the 1st & 3rd Sundays of every month as long as we continue our online services.

You will need to provide your own bread/cracker and wine/juice. God will provide the rest. This is another way we can stay connected and fed by Christ during this pandemic time.

## FOOD SHELF DONATIONS

From November 25 - December 25 we collected the following for our local food shelf:

390 pounds of food

If you are donating money and want to make sure it goes directly to our local food shelf, put a note on the memo line saying:

### Chisago Lakes Area Food Shelf Only

Current food needs are:

Cereal Bars  
Small snack bags  
Toothpaste  
Fruit snacks

***Thank you for your generosity!***

The church bell is rung on Sunday mornings. It rings once for every 100 Covid-19 deaths in the state of Minnesota. Thank you to Chet for his dedication to this task!



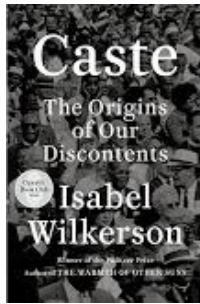
We have a number of people who have volunteered to assist folks. If you need help getting groceries or running errands, please call the office and we will send you a volunteer. 651-257-2713

Sermons are being mailed out to people who do not have internet access. If you have not been receiving a copy but would like one, please call the church office so we can add you to mailing list. 651-257-2713

## Book Club

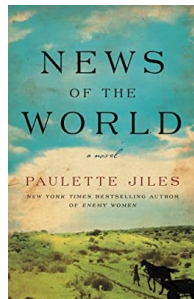
For the present time, book club will be held virtually on the first Monday of each month **at 6:00 pm** . Please contact Sue Frame to find out more. Susan.k.frame@gmail.com

Our **March** book is *Caste - The Origins of our Discontent* by Isabel Wilkerson.



In this brilliant book, Isabel Wilkerson gives us a masterful portrait of an unseen phenomenon in America as she explores, through an immersive, deeply researched narrative and stories about real people, how America today and through its history has been shaped by a hidden caste system, a rigid hierarch of human rankings.

Our **April** book will be *News of the World* by Paulette Jiles



In the aftermath of the Civil War, an aging itinerant news reader agrees to transport a young captive of the Kiowa back to her people in this exquisitely rendered, morally complex, multilayered novel of historical fiction from the author of *Enemy Women* that explores the boundaries of family, responsibility, honor, and trust.

## Offering Labels

If you are need of more labels with your name and envelope number on them, please let us know and we will get them to you.

## Prayer Chain

Zion has a strong prayer chain group. If you would like to be a part of the prayer chain, or have prayers you would like us to add, please contact Sandy Patrias at:

651-674-2029 or  
sd.patrias@q.com (email)

*The LORD is near to  
all them that call on him,  
to all that call on him  
in truth.*

*Psalm 145:18*



## Altar Care for January

Susan Schneider - Coordinator



## Bible Word Search: BOOKS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| P | H | I | L | I | P | P | I | A | N | S | C | N | P | Y |
| P | R | E | V | E | L | A | T | I | O | N | U | Q | A | G |
| L | H | Y | B | C | U | Z | C | V | P | A | F | Q | A | F |
| R | O | I | H | R | K | O | X | T | D | I | X | L | V | D |
| V | Y | J | L | W | E | Q | A | L | S | H | A | X | A | J |
| K | J | X | B | E | G | W | G | L | S | T | S | G | R | C |
| L | O | X | I | H | M | K | S | B | I | N | T | E | D | J |
| J | X | H | B | T | B | O | N | A | A | I | A | N | J | I |
| I | K | Z | F | T | D | T | N | I | K | R | A | M | G | D |
| U | G | S | N | A | I | S | S | O | L | O | C | K | O | G |
| E | J | P | G | M | K | E | Z | V | S | C | A | P | B | R |
| W | G | A | O | Q | H | M | A | H | R | R | F | B | O | S |
| R | E | T | E | P | D | A | P | H | R | D | V | C | F | W |
| B | H | Q | E | D | U | J | Y | O | I | R | I | I | S | Z |
| Y | N | Y | R | O | M | G | V | Z | V | S | D | H | P | H |

PHILEMON  
ACTS  
REVELATION  
ROMANS  
EPHESIANS  
PETER

JAMES  
JUDE  
GALATIANS  
LUKE  
PHILIPPIANS  
CORINTHIANS

HEBREWS  
MATTHEW  
COLOSSIANS  
MARK  
TIMOTHY

For more free Bible word searches, visit  
[www.memory-improvement-tips.com/printable-bible-word-search-puzzles.html](http://www.memory-improvement-tips.com/printable-bible-word-search-puzzles.html)

© [Memory-Improvement-Tips.com](http://Memory-Improvement-Tips.com)

You may copy & distribute this word search without restriction as long as this copyright notice remains in place.

## MARCH 2021

28005 Old Towne Road  
Chisago City, MN  
55013

Phone: 651-257-2713

[www.zionlcc.org](http://www.zionlcc.org)

### Staff Members:

Pastor Sarah Kerkes, ext. 102  
[pastor@zionlcc.org](mailto:pastor@zionlcc.org)

Interim Office Secretary: Joy Sietsema ext. 101  
[office@zionlcc.org](mailto:office@zionlcc.org)

Bookkeeper: Deb Hoffmeister, ext. 103  
[bookkeeper@zionlcc.org](mailto:bookkeeper@zionlcc.org)

NOIZ: Megan Dreckman

Sunday School: Anne Thomsen

Financial Secretary: Nicole Battles

Youth Director: Todd Freeman, ext. 104

Organist & Bell Choir Director: Joy Sietsema

Choir Director: Michael Savold

Accompanist: Julie Lauritzen

Custodian: Dexter Bylander

Cemetery Grounds: John Hawkinson

Zion Groundskeeper: T. Gary Schroeder

---

### 2021 Church Council Members:

|                |                                             |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Danny Eby      | President                                   |
| Jim Green      | Vice President, Outreach, Human Resources   |
| Kris Skoog     | Council Secretary, Finance, Human Resources |
| Carl Thomsen   | Property                                    |
| Laura Freeman  | Worship & Music                             |
| Corrine Mix    | Missions                                    |
| Dan Eby        | Mutual Ministry                             |
| Mary Redgrave  | Stewardship                                 |
| Barb Garness   | Hospitality                                 |
| Karen Pavel    | Shepherding                                 |
| Trudy Marten   | Christian Education                         |
| Glade Sietsema | Technology                                  |